

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A toner for developing an electrostatic image, comprising:  
a polyester resin; and  
a colorant, wherein a surface of the toner is harder than a center portion of the toner.
2. A toner for developing an electrostatic image according to Claim 1, a hardness of the polyester resin at the surface being higher than a hardness of the polyester resin at the center portion.
3. A toner for developing an electrostatic image, comprising:  
a polyester resin; and  
a colorant, wherein a surface of the toner is higher in heat resistance than a center portion of the toner.
4. A toner for developing an electrostatic image according to Claim 3, a heat resistance of the polyester resin at the surface being higher than a heat resistance of the polyester resin at the center.
5. A toner for developing an electrostatic image, comprising:  
a polyester resin; and  
a colorant, wherein a surface of the toner is higher in cross-linking density than a center portion of the toner.

6. A toner for developing an electrostatic image according to Claim 5, a cross-linking density of the polyester resin at the surface being higher than a cross-linking density of the polyester resin at the center.
7. A toner for developing an electrostatic image according to Claim 1, the polyester resin containing nitrogen.
8. A toner for developing an electrostatic image according to Claim 7, a concentration of nitrogen at the surface being more than a concentration of nitrogen in the entire toner.
9. A toner for developing an electrostatic image according to Claim 8, a ratio (S/V) of the surface concentration of nitrogen S to the overall concentration of nitrogen V being from 1.2 to 10.
10. A toner for developing an electrostatic image according to Claim 7, the nitrogen-containing polyester resin being a polyester resin modified with urea bonds.
11. A toner for developing an electrostatic image according to Claim 1, the toner comprising particles formed by at least one of elongation and cross-linking, a toner composition including a prepolymer being dissolved in oil droplets dispersed in an aqueous medium.
12. A toner for developing an electrostatic image according to Claim

11, the toner particles being substantially spherical and an average sphericity E of the toner particles being from 0.90 to 0.99.

13. A toner for developing an electrostatic image according to Claim 1, a sphericity SF-1 of the toner being from 100 to 140 and a sphericity SF-2 of the toner being from 100 to 130.

14. A toner for developing an electrostatic image according to Claim 1, a volume mean diameter  $D_v$  of the toner particles being from  $2\mu\text{m}$  to  $7\mu\text{m}$  and a ratio ( $D_v/D_n$ ) of the volume mean diameter  $D_v$  to a number mean diameter  $D_n$  being 1.25 or less.

15. A two component developer comprising:

a toner; and

carrier particles containing magnetic particles, the toner

comprising:

a polyester resin; and

a colorant, a portion at a surface of the toner being harder than a center portion of the toner.

16. An image forming apparatus comprising:

an electrostatic image carrier which supports an electrostatic

image;

an image-developer for developing the electrostatic latent image into a toner image;

a transfer which transfers the toner image to a support material;  
and  
a developer containing:  
a toner; and  
carrier particles containing magnetic particles, the toner  
comprising:  
a polyester resin; and  
a colorant, a portion at a surface of the toner being harder than  
a center portion of the toner.

17. A process for forming an image comprising:  
developing an electrostatic image by a developer containing:  
a toner; and  
carrier particles containing magnetic particles, the toner  
comprising:  
a polyester resin; and  
a colorant, a portion at a surface of the toner being harder than  
a center portion of the toner.

18. A toner container comprising:  
a toner containing:  
a polyester resin; and  
a colorant, a portion at a surface of the toner being harder than  
a center portion of the toner.

19. A process cartridge comprising:
- a toner; and
  - an electrostatic image substrate, the toner containing:
    - a polyester resin; and
    - a colorant, a portion at a surface of the toner being harder than a center portion of the toner.